DC

7

The Joker

THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

ROSENBERG
CADY
DI GIANDOMENICO
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HI-FI

15+
TEEN PLUS

DAWN OF DC

6 issues
APRIL

SUPERBOY
THE MAN OF TOMORROW

OUTGROWN YOUR SUPER-FAMILY? TIME TO GET A LITTLE SPACE.

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Written by
KENNY PORTER

Art by
JAHNOY LINDSAY

FORGING THE FUTURE ONE HERO AT A TIME

AA MEETING - GYMNASIUM

SHERMAN OAKS. L.A. 45 MINUTES AGO.

THE JOKER: THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

THANK YOU FOR SHARING, TYLER. WOULD ANY OTHER NEWCOMERS LIKE TO SHARE?

I CAN GO. IF THAT'S...

PLEASE!

MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ARTIST
ROMULO FAJARDO JR. COLORS
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO COVER
LEE BERMEJO, FRANCESCO MATTINA, AND CHRISTIAN WARD VARIANT COVERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

HI. MY NAME IS KATE SPE--

RIGHT, YEAH. ***ANONYMOUS...***

AH. WE DON'T USE ***LAST NAMES*** HERE, KATE.

MY NAME IS KATE, AND...I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHY I CAME HERE.

I'M SORRY. THAT'S NOT TRUE.

TAKE YOUR TIME.

I GUESS THAT'S THE THING, RIGHT? IT STARTS WITH LYING TO YOURSELF. IT DID FOR ME AT LEAST.

I HAVE A GOOD JOB. AN HONEST-TO-GOD ***GOOD*** JOB. BUT IT ALWAYS FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS MISSING. SO, I STARTED DOING THIS...

...OTHER JOB. AND EVERYTHING JUST CLICKED. IT FELT LIKE I WAS DOING WHAT I WAS MEANT TO DO.

WHEN MY MARRIAGE FELL APART, THIS ***OTHER*** THING WAS THERE. AND WHEN RAMSEY WAS BORN...I'VE NEVER SAID THIS OUT LOUD. EVEN AFTER HE WAS BORN, MY OTHER JOB WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT.

AND IT WAS STRESSFUL. AND DANGEROUS. AND IT TOOK ME TO DARK PLACES. PLACES THAT DIDN'T MAKE ME LOVE MYSELF.

BUT I LOVED IT WHILE I DID IT, YOU KNOW?

...I FORGOT TO PICK HIM UP FROM SCHOOL ONCE. I JUST...DIDN'T SHOW UP ONE DAY.

AFTER THAT I STOPPED. THE DRINKING. THE ***OTHER*** THING. ALL OF IT.

I NEEDED TO BE GOOD FOR HIM. HE'S SUCH A GOOD KID.

BUT I KEPT SEEING THE WORLD HE'S GOING TO INHERIT, AND IT SCARED ME EVEN WORSE THAN I SCARED MYSELF. AND I RESISTED AND RESISTED, AND I SWORE I WOULDN'T. BUT I WENT BACK.

NOT TO DRINKING. BUT I KNOW THEY GO TOGETHER FOR ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW SUPERM--I DON'T KNOW HOW OTHER PEOPLE DO IT.

SO NOW I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BE A GOOD MOM WHO IS THERE FOR HER KID, WHO TEACHES HIM HOW TO BE BRAVE AND STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT...

AND I GUESS I HAVE TO DO THAT TOO...

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT WITHOUT RISKING TURNING MYSELF BACK INTO A PERSON I DON'T WANT HIM TO--

BOOM

OH MY ***GOD!***

HOLLYWOOD. NOW.

I'M SORRY IF THIS IS *RUDE*, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

I'M YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE, *CLOWN.*

MY WORST NIGHTMARE IS BEING BORING.

IT LOOKS SO REAL.

NOT REALLY. IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY YOU CAN SEE IT'S ALL CHOREOGRAPHED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

LOS ANGELES DOESN'T HAVE SUPERHEROES.

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

WHY DON'T YOU?

SSSSSS

WE HOPE YOU'VE ALL BEEN ENJOYING OUR LITTLE STREET THEATER PERFORMANCE OF ***JOKER VS. THE EVIL TOMATO.***

WE DO LOVE HAVING A CROWD FOR OUR VIOLENCE AND HUMILIATION.

BUT THIS NEXT PART REQUIRES A VOLUNTEER. WHO WANTS TO BE IN THE SHOW?

YOU'LL DO. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

D--

I'LL CALL YOU ***ROLONDO.*** QUESTION FOR YOU, ***ROLONDO.*** WHAT GOES THROUGH A MIND LIKE YOURS WHEN YOU GET PICKED FOR A PERFORMANCE LIKE THIS?

EXCITEMENT, I GUESS.

WRONG. IT'S A BULLET.

BLAM

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO I HAVE TO KILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET BEFORE YOU PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF ME?

RUN AWAY.

YOU SICK MONSTER. YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS.

OH, YOU SILLY LADY. I PAID IN ADVANCE.

BLAM BLAM

IT'S OVER, JOKER. TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AND I PUT THIS THROUGH YOUR DAMAGED BRAIN.

MY DEAR, I DON'T *TRY* FUNNY THINGS. I SIMPLY DO THEM.

WHAM

HA! HA!

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POLICE

OH, OFFICERS. THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE.

THAT *DERANGED* WOMAN KILLED THESE PEOPLE AND ATTACKED ME, A POOR, INNOCENT COSTUMED PLAYER OR WHATEVER THAT TERM IS...

SHE WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT HOW SHE ENJOYED BLOWING UP ALL THOSE POLICE STATIONS AND HAVING A...I THINK SHE CALLED IT A *PIG ROAST?*

BOSS! WE FINALLY FOUND YA. WE WUZ LOOKIN' EVERYWHERE.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH. MOVE OVER. I'M DRIVING.

GOTHAM CENTRAL.

ON YOUR FEET, SCUMBAG. TIME TO GO.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

IT'S MOVING DAY.

I WAS TOLD I WAS STAYING HERE UNTIL MY *HEARING.*

WORD CAME DOWN FROM ON HIGH. SOMEONE THINKS YOU'RE A FLIGHT RISK, SO THEY'RE TRANSFERRING YOU OUT.

TO WHERE?

BLACKGATE.

YOU SEEM PRETTY CALM. YOU KNOW THEY'RE GONNA KILL YOU IN THERE, RIGHT, TOUGH GUY?

NO. BUT THEY'RE GONNA TRY.

LOOK AT THEM GET OUT OF OUR WAY. SIRENS ARE GREAT. WE SHOULD GET SIRENS ON ALL OF OUR CARS.

I'LL LOOK INTO IT, BOSS.

POLICE

NEWS SAYS THEY GOT A CURFEW IN EFFECT SOON, BUT FLIGHTS ARE STILL LEAVING FOR THE NEXT 45 MINUTES.

WE JUST MIGHT MAKE IT.

DID IT JUST GET MUCH SUNNIER?

HMMM. THAT DOESN'T SEEM GOOD.

DID YOU GUYS ***STEAL*** THIS CAR?

AND?

IT'S A COP CAR, BOSS....

...AND WE'RE NOT COPS.

WAFFLES, TAKE THE WHEEL!

POLICE

I *KNOW* WE'RE NOT POLICE OFFICERS, WAFFLES.

KA BOOM

OOOH, *FOOD!*

BOSS, THE PLANE--

THEY SAY YOU GOTTA TRY *ANIMAL STYLE* BEFORE YOU LEAVE L.A. WHO'S HUNGRY?

BURGER

IS SHE DEAD TOO? DID SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE?

LINES ARE BUSY.

I THINK SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THOSE WATER... CAT PEOPLE?

WHY IS SHE DRESSED LIKE THAT? IS IT FROM A MOVIE?

THOSE ARE BLUE.

:GASP:

WHERE'D HE GO?!

LADY, YOU NEED TO LIE THE #@!$ DOWN.

WHICH WAY?!

THEY WENT THAT WAY.

HOW LONG AGO?

LIKE TEN MINUTES? WE THOUGHT HE KILLED YOU.

HE'S GONNA WISH HE DID.

HEY!

SORRY. I NEED THIS.

WHY DO PEOPLE LIKE THESE CAT PEOPLE MOVIES?

22,000 FEET OVER L.A.

♪MEOW♪ ♪MEOW♪ ♪MEOW♪ ♪MEOW♪

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. IF YOU DON'T TURN THE SOUND OFF ON YOUR PHONE, I'M GOING TO BREAK IT IN HALF. AND THEN I'M GOING TO DO THE SAME TO YOU.

♪MEOW♪ ♪MEOW♪

HELLO. IS THERE A PROBLEM?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES. I ORDERED A SCOTCH AND SODA FROM YOU LIKE TWENTY MINUTES AGO, AND--

SIR, YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR SEAT. WE'LL BE LANDING--

ATTENTION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING. DUE TO SOME ONGOING SITUATIONS IN LOS ANGELES, THE CITY HAS PUT A CURFEW INTO PLACE.

WE WOULD BE TOUCHING DOWN IN TIME, BUT WE COULDN'T ASSURE YOU THAT YOU ALL WOULD GET TO YOUR FINAL DESTINATIONS BEFORE IT TOOK EFFECT.

SO, THEY'VE ASKED US TO DIVERT TO SAN DIEGO.

WE'RE VERY SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS CAUSES YOU. BUT WE'LL HAVE YOU ON THE GROUND BEFORE TOO LONG.

MR. SPRANG, I NEED YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR SEAT--

YEAH, I'M NOT GONNA DO THAT.

I PAID A LOT OF MONEY, TOO MUCH MONEY IN FACT, FOR YOU TO GET ME WHERE I'M GOING.

AND NOW YOU'RE NOT DOING THAT.

YOU BROKE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, AND I NO LONGER HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU SAY.

IF YOU CAN'T GET ME TO L.A., I'LL HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF.

MR. SPRANG, IF YOU DON'T SIT DOWN--

FYI, THAT'S NOT MY REAL NAME, ***CHERYL.***

WHEN THE POLICE ASK WHAT HAPPENED LATER, YOU TELL THEM WHO ***REALLY*** DID THIS. TELL THEM IT WAS --

THIS KIND OF SUCKS, DOESN'T IT?

WHY DOES EVERYONE HERE ACT LIKE CHEAP HAMBURGERS ARE SOME NOVEL IDEA?

FRIES TASTE LIKE WET CARDBOARD.

MILKSHAKE IS GOOD.

HOW INCOMPETENT DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO SCREW UP A MILKSHAKE, THOUGH?

WHAT IS WITH THIS TRAFFIC? WE HAVE OUR SIRENS ON AND EVERYTHING.

THE 710 IS ALWAYS A PARKING LOT AT THIS TIME. IT'S WHY I SAID TO TAKE THE 110 TO THE 105. BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN.

WELL... I MIGHT HAVE SET ONE OF THE BOMBS OFF ON THE 110. FOR A GAG.

BOSS...

I KNOW. I KNOW. BUT IN MY DEFENSE, I THOUGHT WE WERE ***FLYING OUT OF BURBANK,*** SO--

BOSS! LOOK.

WAIT... IS THAT THE WOMAN YOU HIT WITH THE CAR?

VRRRRM

"LOOKS LIKE SHE'S STILL MAD ABOUT THAT, WAFFLES."

EXPLAIN THIS TO ME. WE'VE BEEN IN THIS TOWN FOR WEEKS NOW. NOTHING.

SOME POLICE. A FEW FBI AGENTS. BUT NO SUPERHEROES. AND SUDDENLY THIS RED LADY SHOWS UP OUT OF THIN AIR?

THERE AREN'T SUPERHEROES IN L.A. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON WE CAME HERE. NO SUPERHEROES IS THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS CITY.

WELL, NO SUPERHEROES BESIDES MANHUNTER, BOSS.

WHO THE $%!@ IS ***MANHUNTER?***

SHE IS.

HER NAME IS ***MANHUNTER?!*** ISN'T THAT A LITTLE... SEXIST?

I MEAN, I COULDN'T CALL MYSELF ***LADYKILLER***... COULD I?

IT'S A GOOD NAME.

RIGHT? MAKE A NOTE TO FIND OUT IF ***LADYKILLER*** IS TAKEN.

SORRY!

WHOOPS!

SORRY! I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO DRIVE.

POLICE

WE CAN'T SHAKE HER, BOSS. BUT I THINK I CAN KEEP HER AWAY UNTIL WE GET TO THE AIRPORT.

THEN ME AND MR. PANCAKES CAN DEAL WITH HER WHILE YOU GET ON YER PLANE.

I HAVE AN IDEA.

BOSS, MY PLAN IS A GOOD PLAN.

BUT MINE IS MORE FUN!

HA HA!

I'D LIKE TO SEE PERSONHUNTER FOLLOW US AFTER THAT.

POLICE

WOW. REALLY DIDN'T THINK SHE'D DO THAT.

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT MADE HER SO MAD AT YOU, WAFFLES?

UNDER GOTHAM.

Am I alive?

=COUGH COUGH=

DRINK.

NO MORE...

I'm choking to death. So, I think I must be alive.

WHERE AM I?

SEWER.

WELL... THAT'S A @#!%%& DEVELOPMENT....

GET IT?

NO.

REST. MAKE YOU STRONG LIKE SOLOMON GRUNDY.

OW.

I DON'T THINK I'D LIKE TO BE THAT STRONG. NONE OF MY SUITS WILL FIT ANYMORE.

SPEAKING OF OUTFITS, WHO PUT THESE BANDAGES ON ME?

SOLOMON GRUNDY.

I KNOW YOU KNOW HOW TO SAY "*ME.*" JUST SAY IT. IT'S FASTER.

SO, YOU NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH...DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

ME NOT STUPID.

NO...WHO WOULD EVER THINK THAT?

WE DIDN'T ALWAYS GET ALONG, DID WE, SOLLY? SO WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME NOW?

YOU AND GRUNDY ARE SAME.

AH, YES. THE GREAT UNIFIER. WE ARE BOTH PALE.

NO. NOT PALE.

WE ARE DEAD.

Oh.

I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD BE FUN, DIDN'T I?

IT'S LIKE THAT SCHWARZENEGGER MOVIE, BOSS.

SPOILER ALERT! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT ONE YET, WAFFLES!

SORRY, BOSS. BUT IT'S FROM 1991.

DOESN'T MEAN I SAW IT, NOW DOES IT? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I JUST TOLD YOU WHAT ROSEBUD WAS?

I ALREADY SAW THAT ONE.

POLICE

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SHUM

AHH!

POLICE

UNFFF.
THIS IS CRAZY.
ARE YOU UNWELL?
WHO ACTS LIKE
THIS?

I WAS JUST
TRYING TO LEAVE
YOUR STUPID CITY.
WHY WON'T YOU
LET ME LEAVE?

MAKE SURE TO SAVE THE CLOWN FROM THE BURNING CAR. WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO GET HURT. HA! HA!

I'M NOT SAVING YOU FROM THE FIRE, YOU FREAK.

WAIT...ARE YOU GOING TO DROWN ME?

YES.

YOU CAN'T DROWN ME IN THE L.A. RIVER! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

IT'S ONLY FOUR INCHES DEEP!

NEXT: BEEN A WHILE, KILLER CROCODILE.

THE JOKER

JOKER FOR PRESIDENT

I'M ANNOUNCING MY CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT--

--OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION! FEELING AIMLESS AFTER YEARS OF TROUBLEMAKING AND TOMFOOLERY, THE ***CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME*** IS CONSIDERING MENDING HIS WAYS. TO COURT THE AFFECTION OF THE VOX POPULI, HE'LL HAVE TO DO MORE THAN A LITTLE ***GLAD-HANDING...*** AND HE'S NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF CANDIDATE YOU CAN JUST ***"GRAB A BEER"*** WITH.

YOU MAY DOUBT HIS SINCERITY (HE IS, AFTER ALL, A POLITICIAN), BUT YOU CAN'T DOUBT HIS ***CIVIC PRIDE!***

STORY: RYAN CADY & MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART: WILL ROBSON
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LETTERING: TOM NAPOLITANO
EDITING: DAVE WIELGOSZ

EDITOR'S NOTE -- JOKER FIRST DISPLAYED HIS PENCHANT FOR POLITICAL THEORY IN THE *LEGION OF DOOM ELECTION DAY SPECIAL #2!* --HELLO, DARKNESS, MY OLD DAVE WIELGOSZ.

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

UM... WHY?

"IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE CARES ABOUT THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME ANYMORE.

BUBBLEGUM FACTORY

"MY LATEST WHIMSICAL ANTICS ONLY SEEM TO BORE PEOPLE!

SO I SAID TO MYSELF, "HECK, J-MAN, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE TIME FOR JOKES IS OVER! MAYBE IT'S TIME TO DO SOME SERIOUS GOOD!"

WHO WANTS TO HELP ME?

WHO WANTS TO JOIN *TEAM JOKER?*

YOU GET THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE *HATE* YOU, RIGHT?

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, JOKER.

MAYBE HE'LL BE THE WORLD'S FIRST *CROWDFUNDED ASSASSINATION.*

...I'M WILLING TO WORK A PHONE BANK, BUT THAT'S IT.

PLANET NEWS

COULD A MASS-MURDERING CRIMINAL PSYCHOPATH IN CIRCUS MAKEUP REALLY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?

SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT PEOPLE DO LOVE A ***REDEMPTION STORY.***

JOKER

JACKANAPES

ANOTHER CLOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

SORRY, BOSS... ***POLITICAL COMEDY*** ISN'T REALLY MY AREA.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER-- ***FIGURE IT OUT!***

SHAKE BABIES AND...KISS HANDS?

ANOTHER CLOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

PLANET NEWS

AND YOUR REBUTTAL, ***MR. JACKANAPES?***

GORILLA PROBLEMS REQUIRE ***GORILLA SOLUTIONS.***

...JACKANAPES ALSO FAVOR MIDDLE CLASS EXPANSION.

ANOTHER CLOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

NOW, MR. JOKER, YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS. AREN'T YOU CONCERNED SOME OF THEM MIGHT RESPOND TO YOUR CAMPAIGN WITH VIOLENCE?

*NOT IN THE **SLIGHTEST!***

ANYONE CAN RUN FOR PRESIDENT *AS A GAG,* BUT ONCE YOU GET THROUGH THE PRIMARIES, IT'S REAL.

AND SO IT WAS WITH TREPIDATION AND PATRIOTIC FERVOR THAT THE JOKER STEPPED ONTO THAT STAGE...

I'M SO HONORED TO BE HERE BEFORE YOU TONIGHT, AND I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE HELP OF *EVERYONE ON TEAM JOKER!*

KRAK

KRAK

...AND NEVER STEPPED OFF.

Remember me...as a martyr...

NO, SAY IT AIN'T SO! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

...YOU'RE NOT DEAD, SIR. REMEMBER?

IT'S JUST SO *REALISTIC!*

...IT *IS* REAL, SIR.

IT'S JUST NOT YOU.

THE SECRET SERVICE PROVIDES *BODY DOUBLES* FOR ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

AND WITH THE TRUE DANGER OF AN ASSASSINATION NARROWLY AVERTED, THE JOKER'S CAMPAIGN CAN REALLY KICK INTO HIGH GEAR!

I LEARNED THIS TRICK FROM BOSS TWEED!*

VOTE J

***ELECTORAL ERROR!** INFAMOUS TAMMANY HALL POLITICIAN WILLIAM "BOSS" TWEED PASSED AWAY IN 1878--LONG BEFORE THE JOKER WAS BORN. --DOOMACRATIC DAVE.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DODGE A BULLET, I GUESS!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

WHEW!

BUT EVEN IN THE WACKY WORLD OF WASHINGTON, D.C., A GIMMICK WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.

SIZZLE SIZZLE

GALLOPING GOVERNORS! ASSASSINS GET SO ***CREATIVE*** THESE DAYS.

EVENING, LADIES AND GERMS! I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE UP HERE YET, BUT...

JUST A MINUTE, DEAR CONSTITUENTS!

VOTE J

IT'S ANY CANDIDATE'S WORST NIGHTMARE. THEY'RE ALL OUT OF BODY DOUBLES!

I'M SORRY, SIR.

AMERICA HAS RUN OUT OF CLOWNS.

VOTE J

IS THE KILLER COMEDIAN REALLY OUT OF OPTIONS?

MUST HE EITHER ABANDON HIS HARD-FOUGHT IDEALS--*OR DIE?*

BUT WHO'S THIS *DAPPER STRANGER* APPROACHING THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME?

I WAS TOLD TO DELIVER THIS BEFORE YOU DID ANYTHING *HASTY,* SIR. A MAN OF YOUR TALENTS HAS *MORE OPTIONS* THAN HE MIGHT THINK...

JARVIS POKER, THE BRITISH JOKER?!

OPTIONS? OPTIONS BEYOND "GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR *GIVE ME DEATH?*"

MY FELLOW AMERICANS! I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU, IN SPITE OF THE GREAT MANY THREATS AGAINST MY LIFE, TO TELL YOU THAT--

HANG ON, LEMME JUST CHECK THIS LAST PARAGRAPH...

TO TELL YOU THAT, INDEFINITELY, I AM SUSPENDING MY CAMPAIGN. I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE *PRESIDENT JOKER* JUST ISN'T IN THE CARDS FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL NATION OF OURS.

HA HA HA, WOW, I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT'S FUNNIER IF I DON'T KILL ANYBODY.

WHAT IS THAT CALLED? ANTI-COMEDY?

VOTE J

JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT IN POLITICS--AS WELL AS COMEDY--ALL YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO IS FIND YOUR AUDIENCE. TURNS OUT THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME JUST NEEDED TO GO SOMEWHERE THAT APPRECIATES ROYALTY!

THEY'RE... THEY'RE CLEARLY LAUGHING *WITH* YOU, SIR.

DIGNITY IN DEFEAT VERY IMPORTANT IN GORILLA CULTURE.

OH, CAN IT, YOU TWO...

IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED CHEERING UP! I NEVER REALLY WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT ANYHOW.

DEMOCRACY'S A BAD JOKE!

THIS WAS MORE OF A STEPPING-STONE CAREER CHOICE...AND, LOOK, A *BETTER JOB OFFER* CAME IN JUST IN TIME.

WISE CHOICE, SIR, VERY WISE.

FORGET CONSTITUENTS--NOW I'VE GOT *SUBJECTS.* I'M THE UNDISPUTED RULER OF GREAT BRITAIN!

HEE HEE HEE!

GOD SAVE THE KING, DEARIES!

GOD SAVE THE KING!

THE END...
(For American readers, anyway...)

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Art by
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DC

APRIL

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE

NIGHTMARE COUNTRY
The GLASS HOUSE

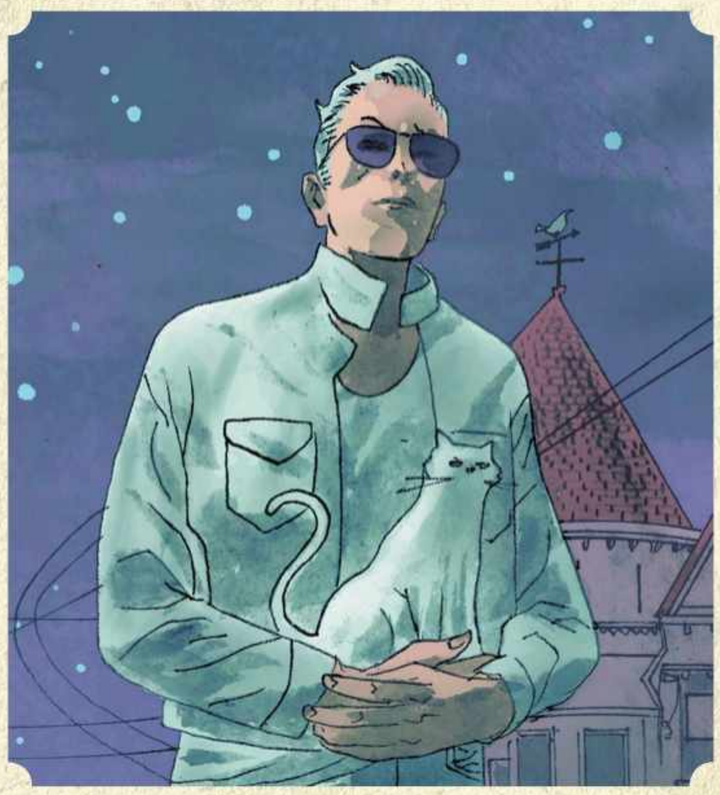
Last year's *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* was, ahem, a dream come true for fans as horror superstar James Tynion IV teamed with acclaimed artist Lisandro Estherren and an all-star lineup of guest illustrators to tell the tale of unsettlingly memorable *The Sandman* antagonist the Corinthian let loose on the waking world.

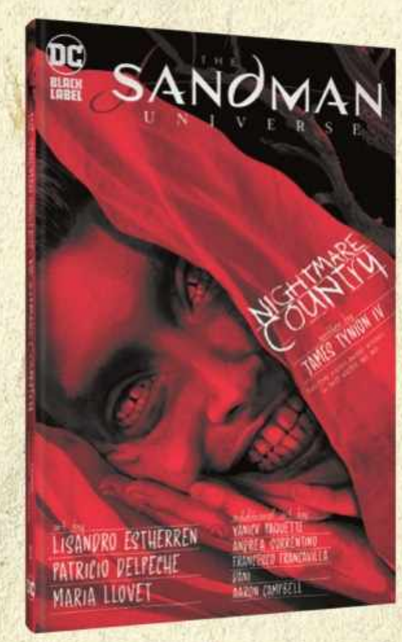
"The whole first series built up this big mystery—there's this monster walking the world that acts like a nightmare but is not a nightmare," Tynion said. "The Corinthian is deeply fascinated by what this monster is and what it could mean."

This spring, Tynion and Estherren return for *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country - The Glass House*, a new six-issue series and the latest installment of the *Sandman Universe* saga. In this follow-up volume, the Corinthian's pursuit of the Smiling Man takes him to Silicon Valley.

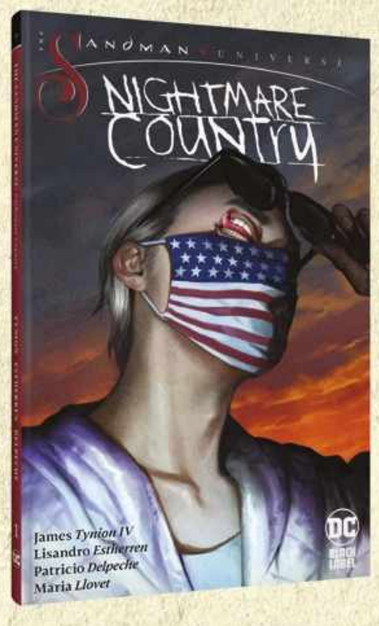
"What exists at the beating heart of America? We talk a lot about the American dream, and that aspirational quality," Tynion said. "But there is also this raw desire that lives at the heart of the American consciousness. There are few places that embody that more than Silicon Valley."

Plus, the full first volume of *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* returns in two collected editions—in paperback and a collector's edition hardcover—released simultaneously. The hardcover edition is bundled with a mini-print of Jenny Frison's take on Death of the Endless, which first appeared as a *Nightmare Country* variant cover.





The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country



The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country (Direct Market Edition)

Don't miss *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country - The Glass House* #1 and *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* collected editions, all on sale in April!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP